



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/502,416	07/23/2004	Daniel Greub	0115-044591	3939

28289 7590 01/18/2007
THE WEBB LAW FIRM, P.C.
700 KOPPERS BUILDING
436 SEVENTH AVENUE
PITTSBURGH, PA 15219

EXAMINER

CHIAM, DINH D

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2883

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
31 DAYS	01/18/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office

Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

APPLICATION NO./ CONTROL NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR / PATENT IN REEXAMINATION	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
---------------------------------	-------------	---	---------------------

10/502, 416

07/23/04

Greub, Daniel

0115-044591

EXAMINER

Erin D. Chum

ART UNIT

PAPER

2883

20070105

DATE MAILED:

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner for Patents

Please see attached document.

Art Unit: 2883

Newly submitted claims 17 and 36 directed to an invention that is independent or distinct from the invention originally claimed for the following reasons: the amended limitation recites the “cylindrical sleeve having an axial slit” is a distinct species of the originally presented claim 17.

In the Non-final Office Action (mailed July 19, 2006) examiner objected the claimed recitation of the “longitudinal slit, cylindrical sleeve” as being unclear. Examiner clearly explained the clarity issue is caused by the comma usage (please see page 3 of the Office Action, 2nd bullet). The examiner proceeded with examination of the application considering the unclear recitation in accordance to the drawings and disclosure as explained on page 4 of the Office Action, quote:

For examination purposes, claim 17 and a portion of claim 36:

A sleeve mount comprising an interior for accommodating and securing a longitudinally slit, cylindrical sleeve, the sleeve mount provided in a coupling of an optical plug-in connection for accommodating ferrules of two optical plug-in connectors introduced from opposite directions, the sleeve mount having means for securing the sleeve against rotation about a sleeve axis, wherein the means for securing are arranged in a central part of the sleeve mount and are restricted to the central part of the sleeve mount.

will be considered to mean:

A sleeve mount assembly comprising a sleeve mount having an interior for accommodating and securing a ~~longitudinally slit, cylindrical sleeve,~~ cylindrical sleeve having a longitudinal slit, the sleeve mount assembly further comprising ~~provided in a coupling of an~~ optical plug-in connections for accommodating ferrules of two optical plug-in connectors introduced from opposite directions, the sleeve mount having means for securing the sleeve against rotation about a sleeve axis, wherein the means for securing are arranged

Art Unit: 2883

in a central part of the sleeve mount and are restricted to the central part of the sleeve mount.

However, in view of the current amendment, applicant amended claims 17 and 36 to recite “securing a cylindrical sleeve having an axial slit” instead of the “a cylindrical sleeve having a longitudinal slit”; the amended limitation is clearly a distinct species from the original presentation. Furthermore, applicant’s specification and drawings does not disclose an “axial slit.”

Since applicant has received an action on the merits for the originally presented invention, this invention has been constructively elected by original presentation for prosecution on the merits. Accordingly, claims 17 and 36 are withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a non-elected invention. See 37 CFR 1.142(b) and MPEP § 821.03. The amendment changed the scope of the invention, thus the subsequent amended limitations of claims, 17, 36 and the dependent claims also changed the scope of the invention. Therefore, the dependent claims (28-32, 34-35, and 38-44) are also withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a non-elected invention.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Erin D. Chiem whose telephone number is (571) 272-3102. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday 9AM - 5PM.

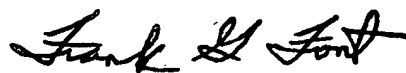
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner’s supervisor, Frank G. Font can be reached on (571) 272-2415. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2883

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Erin D Chiem
Examiner
Art Unit 2883



Frank G. Font
Supervisory Primary Examiner
Technology Center 2800